

# Urban District Council of Exmouth



## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1960



TOWN HALL,  
EXMOUTH.



# I N D E X

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EXMOUTH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
Exmouth.

July, 1961.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

It gives me much pleasure to present to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1960, this being the 14th Annual Report which I have been privileged to submit.

It will be seen that the resident population as estimated by the Registrar General has again increased from 18,540 in 1959 to 18,580 in 1960. (In 1900 the ~~estimated~~ resident population was 10,332). The population however, according to the 1961 Census is in fact 19,740 and shows an increase of 2,518 on the 1951 Census, which represents a 14.6% increase during the last intercensal period.

The standardised live birth rate of 15.0 was slightly higher than that for the previous year (14.3) and the standardised death rate of 12.6 was also higher than that for 1959 (10.9) and was higher than that for England & Wales as a whole (11.5).

Regarding the incidence of infectious diseases, a total of 180 were notified - the majority of which were measles. Scarlet Fever accounted for 7 of the notifications but these were all very mild and little more than a mild sore throat and faint rash.

I am pleased to report that there were no cases of dysentery or of Poliomyelitis notified during the year. The vaccination programme against the latter disease was continued during the year and practically 100% of the school children are now protected against the disease.

The number of cases of Tuberculosis notified continued to decline, however, 6 deaths attributable to this disease occurred during the year.

I feel that this report would not be complete without a reference to the disastrous flooding which occurred on two occasions in the latter part of the year to the low lying residential part of the town and at Appendix "A" I have included a short description of the events, with particular reference to the part the Public Health Department had to play.

It is with some satisfaction that I can record that although there were some 1,000 houses and numerous shops inundated with muddy flood water, there occurred no cases of communicable disease such as dysentery, typhoid etc., which could be ascribed to the flooding.

That spirit of comradeship which becomes manifest in times of emergency which is so characteristic of the British people did much to lessen the plight of those affected, and I cannot speak too highly of the great help and willing assistance which so many people in so many walks of life rendered during those troubled days. The Council has already acknowledged with gratitude the help given by so many public spirited bodies, but I would particularly refer to the untiring efforts of Mr. Humphries, your Engineer and his staff, Mr. Cochrane and Mr. Ashton, your Treasurer and Housing Officer respectively and all the members of staff of the Public Health Department who worked so conscientiously and tirelessly both day and night during the critical days on both occasions.

Furthermore, I wish to place on record that without the magnificent co-operation of the then Chairman and Members of the Council and especially the "Emergency Works Committee" under the able leadership of Councillor H. Jarvis Graves, the emergency measures which were so necessary and immediate could not have been accomplished in so short a space of time as in fact they were.

L.G. ANDERSON,

Medical Officer of Health





S T A F F.MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

L.G. Anderson, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.

SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. D.R. Redgwell, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Mr. B.J. Stowell, M.A.P.H.I.

CLERK TO MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

Miss P.A. Macnamara

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1. STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	5,295
Resident Population Mid-year 1960 (as estimated by the Registrar General)	18,580
Number of inhabited dwellings (1st April 1961)	6,866
Rateable value as at 1st April 1961	£368,076
Estimated product of a penny rate, 1961-62	£1,510

2. VITAL STATISTICS(a) Live Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	134	128	262
Illegitimate	8	9	17
Total	142	137	279

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	15.0
Standardised live birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	13.0
Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated civilian population England & Wales	17.1

(b) Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	6	2	8

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births	27.9
Still birth rate per 1,000 live and still births England & Wales	19.7

(c) Deaths

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
181	185	366

Corrected death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	19.7
Standardised death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	12.6
Death rate per 1,000 civilian population England & Wales	11.5
Death from maternal causes	Nil.



(d) Infant Mortality

(Deaths of infants under 1 year of age).

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	3	-	3
Illegitimate	-	-	-
Total	3	-	3

Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age - 1 male.

Deaths of infants under 1 week of age - 1 male.

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births 10.8

Infant Mortality per 1,000 births England & Wales 21.7  
(lowest ever recorded in this country).

3. LIVE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.)

During 1960, 142 male and 137 female (total 279 babies) were born. As compared with 1959 the total births increased by 26. The standardised rate per 1,000 estimated resident population was 18.0 which is higher than the rate for England & Wales as a whole (17.1)

In England & Wales the total live births registered for the year was 782,673 which was 32,503 more than the total for 1959 and represents a live birth rate per 1,000 population of 17.1

The standardised live birth rate during the last 10 years was as follows:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Exmouth	12.4	13.5	19.9	10.9	12.3	13.3	12.9	14.1	13.6	15.0
Standard- ised	13.1	14.2	14.8	13.1	14.7	16.0	15.5	16.9	14.3	18.0
England & Wales	15.5	15.3	15.5	15.2	15.0	15.7	16.1	16.4	16.5	17.1

4. ILLEGITIMATE BIRTH RATE

(Rate per 1,000 total live births).

Of the 279 children born during 1960, 17 were illegitimate. The rate per 1,000 total live births was 60.9



The illegitimate birth rates during the last 10 years were as follows:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Exmouth	42.6	51.7	66.2	9.8	18.5	42.0	25.8	22.9	63.2	60.9
England & Wales	47.0	46.0	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

\* Figures not available.

## 5. STILL BIRTHS

(Rate per 1,000 live and still births)

The number of still births which occurred during 1960 viz: 8 which was 3 more than in the previous year and the still birth rate of 27.9 was higher than that for England & Wales as a whole (19.7). The sub-joined table shows the still birth rate for the last 10 years:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Exmouth	18.5	37.4	16.0	4.8	27.8	20.5	33.2	15.2	19.3	27.9
England & Wales	23.0	22.6	22.4	24.0	23.1	23.0	22.4	21.6	20.7	19.7

## 6. DEATHS

During 1960, 366 persons normally resident in the urban district died (181 males and 185 females) which represents a corrected death rate of 19.7, but when allowance for age and sex distribution has been made, represents a "standardised" death rate of 12.6. This is higher than that for England and Wales viz: 11.5. The following table shows the corrected and standardised death rates for Exmouth for the last 10 years:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Corrected	19.5	16.2	15.6	18.1	16.5	17.4	15.3	18.5	17.3	19.7
Standardised	12.6	10.5	10.2	11.0	9.9	11.0	9.8	11.5	10.9	12.6
England & Wales	12.5	11.3	11.4	11.3	11.7	11.7	11.5	11.7	11.6	11.5

### Age at death

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Males	70.0	70.8	66.9	70.7	67.6	68.7	70.7	71.1	68.1	71.4
Females	76.0	70.6	71.3	72.4	75.0	76.0	76.5	77.1	72.6	75.3
Both Sexes	73.2	70.7	69.3	71.8	73.3	72.9	74.3	74.3	70.5	73.3
England & Wales	M 66.6	65.1	67.1	67.3	67.6	67.5	67.7	67.7	67.8	68.0
	F 71.2	70.9	72.3	72.4	73.1	72.9	73.3	73.2	73.5	73.7

### Expectation of Life

On the basis of the mortality experience of the three years 1957-59 the expectation of life of a boy at birth is 68.0 years and of a girl 73.7 years. This compares with 48.43 and 52.38 on the basis of the death rates for 1901-1910.





(c) Causes of death

The following table shows the causes of death (data supplied by the Registrar General).

	Males	Females	Total
Tuberculosis			
Respiratory	1	3	4
Other Forms	1	1	2
Syphilitic Disease	1	-	1
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	1	1
Cancer			
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	3	8
Malignant neoplasm, lung & bronchus	9	2	11
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	6	6
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	4	4
Other Malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	18	14	32
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	-	4	4
Diabetes	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	20	32	52
Coronary disease angina	35	22	57
Hypertension with heart disease	2	3	5
Other heart diseases	36	40	76
Other circulatory diseases	9	6	15
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	4	7	11
Bronchitis	8	4	12
Other diseases of respiratory system	4	3	7
Ulcer of stomach & duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis & Diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	5	-	5
Congenital malformations	2	-	2
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	9	19	28
Motor vehicle accidents	2	-	2
All other accidents	6	6	12
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide & Operations of war	-	-	-
All causes	181	185	366



The most prevalent cause of death during 1960 was again that of heart disease, 138 cases (37.7% total deaths). Cancer was the cause of 61 cases (16.7% total deaths) and intracranial vascular lesions such as cerebral haemorrhage and thrombosis was responsible for 52 deaths (14.2% total deaths).

(d) Deaths due to Accidents

- (1) Male age 76      Fracture of right femur, due to fall on level in hospital. Death by misadventure.
- (2) Female age 79      Fracture of left femur. Slipped on doorstep at home. Death by misadventure.
- (3) Female age 82      Fractured neck of right femur. Fell getting out of bed. Death by misadventure.
- (4) Female age 86      Fracture of right femur - fall.
- (5) Male age 38      Fracture of skull and extensive head injuries sustained when struck by a motor car when walking in the road. Misadventure.
- (6) Male 6 weeks      Asphyxia and suffocation. Accidentally sustained when child turned over in the pram.
- (7) Female age 76      Barbiturate poisoning due to overdose of carbitalurate, there being insufficient evidence as to how the poison was taken.
- (8) Female age 72      Fracture of neck of left femur due to accidental fall.
- (9) Male 3 months      Aspiration of vomit. Misadventure.
- (10) Male age 16      Drowning by immersion in water when he fell into Exmouth dock. Misadventure.
- (11) Male 20 months      Haemorrhage due to fall downstairs. Accidental.

Deaths Due to Suicide

- (1) Female age 54      Barbiturate poisoning. Killed herself while balance of mind was disturbed.



- (e) The following table shows the incidence of death at various age groups (from returns supplied by the local Registrar of Births and Deaths).

	Males	Females	Total	Percentage
Under 1 year	3	-	3	0.82
1 and under 2	1	-	1	0.27
2+	-	-	-	-
5+	-	-	-	-
10+	4	-	4	1.09
20+	-	1	1	0.27
30+	1	1	2	0.55
40+	4	1	5	1.37
50+	11	16	27	7.38
60+	35	28	63	17.2
70+	59	53	112	30.6
80+	55	72	127	34.7
90 - 100	8	12	20	5.5
102	-	1	1	0.27
All ages	181	185	366	

7.

#### INFANT MORTALITY

The infant mortality rate represents the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 live births registered.

During 1960, 3 infants, 3 male under the age of 1 year died. This represents an infant mortality rate of 10.8 which is lower than that for England & Wales (21.7).

The following table gives the infant mortality rate of previous years:-

	1938	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
No. of deaths under 1 year	6	12	13	4	6	3	4	6
Infant Mortality, per 1,000 live births.	38.4	38.7	49.3	16.6	24.6	14.8	18.9	26.0
	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. of deaths under 1 year	11	10	7	5	2	4	12	3
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	45.5	48.8	32.4	21.0	8.6	15.5	47.4	10.8





The causes of death of the 3 infants were as follows:-

Sex	Age	Cause of Death
M	14 hours	Congenital Malformations
M	6 weeks	Asphyxia and suffocation accidentally, sustained when child turned over in the pram.
M	3 months	Aspiration of vomit

## 8. CANCER

Deaths from Cancer increased from 50 in 1959 to 61 in 1960, and in relation to the total number of deaths, the rate per cent increased from 15.6% in 1959 to 16.7% in 1960.

The parts of the body affected are given in the following table:-

Site	Males	Females	Total
Stomach	5	3	8
Lung & Bronchus	9	2	11
Breast	-	6	6
Uterus	-	4	4
All other sites	18	14	32
Total	32	29	61

The incidence of deaths from Cancer during the last 10 years is as follows:-

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
No. of cases	50	48	39	55	46	42	52	59	50	61
Percentage total No. of deaths	15.0	17.5	14.4	18.9	15.8	13.5	18.8	17.5	15.6	16.7
Rate per 1,000 resident population	2.92	2.8	2.23	3.16	2.62	2.34	2.88	3.24	2.7	3.3

## 9. INFECTIOUS DISEASES

During 1960, 180 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified, which is 78 more than in the previous year.

### (a) Measles

There were 154 cases of Measles in 1960 and these were of a mild nature.



The seasonal incidence of Measles in Exmouth and England and Wales as a whole was as follows:-

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Exmouth	64	19	3	-	10	52	5	1	-	-	-	-
	86			62			56			-		
England & Wales	22,973			29,684			27,173			a		

a Figures not available

(b) Tabular Statements of infectious Diseases

The incidence during 1960 of the various infectious diseases is tabulated herewith.

	Cases notified	Cases admitted to hospital
Measles	154	-
Whooping Cough	3	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-
Scarlet Fever	7	-
Pneumonia	-	-
Shigellosis	3	-
Erysipelas	4	4
Food Poisoning	4	-
Polio-myelitis	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	1
Total	176	5

(c) The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases during the last 10 years.

	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
Measles	533	13	426	69	29	85	290	246	36	154
Whooping Cough	19	28	108	45	15	66	13	35	30	3
Scarlet Fever	12	51	26	33	12	4	3	1	29	7
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	1	-	1
Dysentery	-	49	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	3
Pneumonia	-	-	25	19	9	12	2	12	3	-
Erysipelas	2	1	2	-	1	2	1	6	1	4
Acute Polio-myelitis	-	1	2	-	2	-	29	1	-	-



(d) The following table shows the incidence of notifiable infectious diseases grouped according to age:-

	Under 1 year	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	20+	35+	45+	65+	Total
Measles	1	11	14	18	19	85	1	1	2	2	-	-	154
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	7
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	4
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sonne Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1

#### 10. TUBERCULOSIS

During 1960, 4 new cases of Tuberculosis (3 female and 1 male) were notified. There were also 2 cases, initially notified elsewhere who came to reside in the Urban District.

The number of cases still on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year were:-

	Males	Females	Total
Pulmonary	100	90	190
Non-Pulmonary	21	31	52
Total	121	121	242

The age distribution of new cases, localisation of the disease and deaths from Tuberculosis during 1960 were as follows:-

AGE PERIOD	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY		RESPIRATORY		NON-RESPIRATORY	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-1								
1-								
3-								
15-	1							
25-				1				
35-								
45-								
55-		1				1		1
65-				1		3		1
All ages	1	1		2		4		2
			4			6		





On receipt of a notification of Tuberculosis, the Housing conditions, milk supply etc., are investigated in collaboration with the Chest Physician and where necessary appropriate recommendation made to the relevant committee.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis brought to the notice of the Medical Officer of Health during the period 1951 - 1960:-

		1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
PULMONARY	M	5	7	7	5	5	5	3	4	5	1
	F	5	7	7	5	6	7	4	2	-	1
NON-PULMONARY	M	-	1	2	-	2	1	-	1	-	-
	F	5	1	-	1	4	1	1	2	-	2
TOTAL		15	16	16	11	17	14	8	9	5	4

Table showing incidence of all forms of Tuberculosis.  
(rates per 1,000 estimated resident population).

YEAR	CASES NOTIFIED	DEATH RATE
1912	1.40	0.99
1920	2.24	1.50
1930	1.07	0.68
1938	0.98	0.39
1952	0.93	0.29
1953	0.93	0.058
1954	0.63	0.057
1955	0.97	0.11
1956	0.78	-
1957	0.44	0.11
1958	0.49	0.05
1959	0.27	-
1960	0.22	0.32



11. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE ACT

The Health Services provided by the Local Health Authority (Devon County Council) under Part II and III of the Act applicable to your district are briefly set out herewith.

PART II(a) HOSPITAL FACILITIES(i) General

The urban district is well served by the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, Claremont Grove, Exmouth ('phone Exmouth 4381) where there is accommodation for:-

Male	12 beds
Female	15 beds
Children	5 beds and 4 cots
Private wards	8 beds
Accident bed	1 bed.

In addition to the Exmouth Cottage Hospital, use is made of:-

1. Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, Southernhay East ('phone 72261) 302 beds.
2. Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Hospital, Buckerell Bore, Exeter ('phone 54217), 116 beds. (Also 35 at the Angela Home, Tipton St. John.
3. West of England Eye Infirmary, Magdalen Street, Exeter, ('phone 73183), 62 beds, including 2 private beds.

The plastic surgery centre for Devon is held at the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital on the second Thursday in every month from 9.30 a.m. to 12.30. Mr. Fitz-Gibbons and Mr. Bodenham of the South West Regional Hospital Board attend.

(ii) Maternity

1. Redhills Hospital, St. Thomas, Exeter - 10 beds.
2. Mowbray House, Exeter - 24 beds.
3. Exeter City Hospital - 260 beds altogether, which includes 41 maternity beds and 10 cots for premature babies.

(iii) Isolation

Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Exeter City Isolation Hospital, Whipton ('phone Exeter 67158) as in previous years.

I would like to record my sincere appreciation for the ready help and co-operation given at all times by Dr. Boyd, the Resident Physician and Staff of the hospital.

(iv) Smallpox

A smallpox hospital of 28 beds at Upton Pyne, administered by the Regional Hospital Board is available in case of need, (Tel. Stoke Canon 207).



Should your Medical Officer of Health require the services of a consultant, arrangements have been made to call upon:-

1. East Devon Dr. M.J.A. Wallace, Tel.No.  
Health Centre,  
Westham Road,  
PLYMOUTH, Dorset Plymouth: 1513  
(home)
2. Cornwall & Devon to the River Exe  
Dr. D.F. Johnstone, 64311 and 61437  
Isolation Hospital, Plymouth: 3358  
PLYMOUTH (home)
3. Devon & Cornwall  
Dr. W.A. Lister, Plymouth: 5701  
7, The Crescent, Devonport: 40  
PLYMOUTH (home)

(b) LABORATORY FACILITIES

Bacteriological and Serological examinations are carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Exeter - their address being: Bradninch Place, Sandy Street, Exeter (Tel: Exeter 54959) under the direction of Dr. B. Moore, whose ready co-operation and help I wish to acknowledge.

(c) VENEREAL DISEASE

Under the present scheme free advice and treatment is available to all persons at the following centre:-

EXETER

MALES

FEMALES

Royal Devon & Exeter  
Hospital.

Mon. 7 - 8 p.m.  
Fri. 2 - 3 p.m.

Mon. 6 - 7 p.m.  
Fri. 3 - 4 p.m.

(d) AMBULANCE FACILITIES

Three ambulances are maintained at the Ambulance Station, Bastin Hall, Elm Grove, Exmouth (Tel.No: Exmouth 2857).

In the district served, the ambulances have carried 2,705 patients in 1960 and have attended 167 street accidents and 51 home accidents. The total mileage covered during the year has been 33,354.

At the Beach First Aid Post, 725 cases were treated.

At the Ambulance Headquarters, 122 were treated.

PART III

(e) CARE OF WOMEN AND YOUNG CHILDREN

There are two Health Visitors assigned to this district. Voluntary assistance is rendered at the various centres by Ladies of the town and such assistance is greatly appreciated.

The two Medical Officers who attend the Infant Welfare Centres are: (a) Dr. Archer of Budleigh Salterton and (b) Dr. I.G. Anderson, your Medical Officer of Health. The Centres are held at St. Clement's, 142, Exeter Road, Exmouth on Wednesday and Friday from 2.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., and Dr. Archer attends the Church Hall, Littleham every 2nd and 4th Monday from 2 - 4 p.m.





During the year the following attendances were made:-

(i) St. Clements

No. of sessions held	Total attendances by infants	Total attendances by children 1-5
103	2,687 (No. of new cases: 179)	1,049 (No. of new cases: 37)

(ii) Littleham

No. of sessions held	Total attendances by infants	Total attendances by children 1 - 5
48	624 (No. of new cases: 44)	639 (No. of new cases: 9)

Welfare foods are supplied at the St. Clement's Infant Welfare Centre on Wednesday and Friday afternoons of each week, and at the Church Hall Littleham every Monday afternoon; and also at the W.V.S. Headquarters, 2, Bicton Street on Monday Tuesday and Thursday from 11 - 12.

(f) MATERNITY

There are six District Nurse Midwives in this district viz:-

Nurse Snaith	Nurse Griffey	Nurse Bartlett
Nurse Varne	Nurse Newell	Nurse Shaw

who reside at No. 2, Albion Hill, Exmouth (Tel. No: Exmouth 2237). Each nurse is in possession of a motor car. All are fully trained in gas and air analgesia and two apparatus are available for their use. One oxygen resuscitation apparatus is also held at the Nurses' Home for use when required.

(g) CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS

When necessary, arrangements can be made for the admission of a premature baby and its mother to the nearest Maternity unit, in this case the Exeter City Hospital where there are 10 cots available.

(h) DENTAL CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN

A well equipped dental surgery is provided at St. Clements, Exeter Road, Exmouth, at which dental treatment can be given to Mothers and young children.



The following report has been kindly supplied by the Engineer & Surveyor, Mr. R.J. Humphreys.

## 12. WATER SUPPLY

### (a) Source of Supply

The town has two sources from which its water supply is obtained, namely:-

1. The Catchment Area at Squabmoor which feeds into an impounding Reservoir.
2. Three boreholes at Dotton in the Parish of Colaton Raleigh.

During the year the third borehole at Dotton has been sunk and tested for output.

In the Pumping Station the electrically driven machinery required to supply water to St. Thomas Rural District Council has now been installed and it is expected that a supply will be afforded to that Authority about the middle of May.

Tenders have also been accepted and work will shortly commence on the first stage in the duplication of the rising main from the Dotton Pumping Station towards Exmouth.

### (b) Quality

Water has generally been very satisfactory in quality during the year and the last analysis is as follows:-

#### W.4854 High Level Filters, Exmouth Reservoir

Probable number of coli-aerogenes organisms per 100 ml - NIL

W.4851 Low Level Filters, Exmouth Reservoir DITTO

W.4855 East Budleigh Reservoir DITTO

W.4852 Borehole at Dotton DITTO

W.4853 Bystock Reservoir DITTO

### (c) Quantity

The consumption continued at a high level but no difficulties were experienced in meeting the demand.

### (d) Total number of properties connected to Main Supply and Number of Connections made during 1960.

There are at present 7,072 properties connected to the main supply and during 1960, 225 connections were made.

## 13. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

No major works were carried out to the sewerage system during the year, but many small extensions have been made to service new development.

Serious flooding occurred in September and October from the Withycombe Brook which resulted in water entering a very large number of private houses, and other buildings.



Four cottages, two at the Withycombe Mill and two at Brooklyn Terrace were damaged beyond repair. Immediate steps were taken to provide temporary remedial works along the critical length of the Brook and to prepare a scheme for a new concrete drainage channel from the Estuary to the Withycombe Mill. It is expected that the new works will commence very shortly.

In July and August, surcharging of the foul and storm sewers occurred in the central part of the Town and the Council decided to ask their Consulting Engineers to prepare a scheme for the works required to obviate this. This scheme which involves the extensive laying of new sewers in Victoria Road, St. Andrews Road, the Strand and Chapel Hill areas, together with a pumping station in Imperial Road, has now been approved in principle.

#### 14. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The maintenance of the existing conveniences has been satisfactory throughout the year, although difficulties are still being experienced in recruiting Attendants for the Summer Season.

Consideration will be given to the building of new conveniences on the Sea Front.

#### 15. PUBLIC CLEANSING AND REFUSE DISPOSAL

Refuse has been disposed of at the Withycombe brick Pit under very satisfactory conditions.

#### 16. SWIMMING POOL

Detailed consideration has been given by the Council during the year to the steps which ought to be taken to improve the facilities at the Swimming Pool and the proposals prepared by the Engineer & Surveyor will be brought before the Foreshore Committee at their next Meeting.

#### 17. ANALYTICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER

- (1) Sample of water from Catchment Reservoir, Squabmoor.  
Received 19th April, 1960.

##### Characters

Colour	Yellow tint.
Turbidity	Clear
Taste	Natural
Odour	None
Suspended Matters	Trace of mineral and vegetable debris Diatoms and Infusorians.

##### Bacteria

Coliform Bacilli	13 per 100 millilitres
Coliform Bacilli (Type 1)	5 per " "
Microbes developing colonies visible at the end of seventy-two hours in beef peptone agar at 22 C	130 per millilitre
Microbes developing colonies visible at the end of forty-eight hours in beef peptone agar at 37 C	4 per millilitre.



Analysis

(Parts per Million).

Chlorine present as Chlorides	30.0
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	1.1
Phosphates	0
Sulphates	
Free Carbon Dioxide	
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	31.0
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	8.0
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	23.0
Saline Ammonia	0.006
Albuminoid Ammonia	0.220
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 C	2.5
Oxygen absorbed immediately	
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron in solution	0
Iron in sedimentary form	0
Manganese	0
Total Solid Constituents	115.0
Organic Matter observed in igniting the Solid	
Constituents	trace
Free Chlorine	0

Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH 6.4

ANALYTICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF A SAMPLE OF WATER

- (2) Sample of water from No.2 Borehole at Dutton. Received  
21st March, 1961.

Characters

Colour	Colourless
Turbidity	Clear
Taste	Natural
Odour	None
Suspended Matters	Unimportant.

Bacteria

Coliform Bacilli	None per 100 millilitres
Coliform Bacilli (Type 1)	None " " "
Microbes developing colonies visible at the end of seventy-two hours in beef peptone agar at 22 C	2 per millilitre
Microbes developing colonies visible at the end of forty-eight hours in beef peptone agar at 37 C	1 per millilitre





Analysis

(Parts per Million.)

Chlorine present as Chlorides	25.0
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	0
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	4.8
Phosphates	trace
Sulphates	
Free Carbon Dioxide	
Total Hardness equivalent to Calcium Carbonate	194.0
Temporary Hardness (annulled by boiling)	130.0
Permanent Hardness (not altered by boiling)	64.0
Saline ammonia	0
Albuminoid ammonia	0.012
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hours at 27 C	0.1
Oxygen absorbed immediately	
Lead	0
Copper	0
Zinc	0
Iron in solution	0
Iron in sedimentary form	0
Manganese	0
Total Solid Constituents	300.0
Organic Matter observed in igniting the solid	
Constituents	none

Hydrogen Ion Concentration equivalent to pH 7.2



The following paragraphs have been kindly supplied by the Senior Public Health Inspector. (18 - 26).

18. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Summary of Sanitary Improvements Effected

1. New Drains	2
2. Drains repaired.	6
3. Waste pipes repaired or renewed	1
4. Eavesgutters & rainwater pipes renewed or repaired.	14
5. M.C.'s reconstructed or repaired.	5
6. House roofs repaired.	11
7. House yard paving repaired.	2
8. House walls, floors and ceilings repaired.	46
9. Other house repairs.	20
10. Dustbins provided.	1
11. Ventilated foodstore provided.	1
12. Nuisances abated.	15

Total number of visits in connection with the above work 332

Visits in connection with miscellaneous (complaints, outworkers, interviews etc.) 1,500

Number of complaints received 131

Number of informal notices served 88

Number of informal notices complied with 106

7 Statutory Notices were served under Section 93 of the Public Health Act 1936 and 2 Statutory Notices under Section 39 of the Public Health Act 1936 making a total of 9 notices, an increase of 3 over last year's total.

I am pleased to report that this year it was unnecessary to take action in the local magistrate's court since all the work required by the notices was complied with within the time allowed.

I regret to record that on two occasions, part of Exmouth experienced extensive flooding lasting several hours after a very wet year. The area chiefly affected was that contained by New Street, Woodville Road, Eater Road, Park and Leslie Roads, together with parts of Withycombe Village in the neighbourhood of Withycombe Brook. The flood first occurred on 30th September and re-occurred on the 6th October 1960.

As a result of this additional work was placed upon the Department and altogether 1,233 visits were made in connection with flood relief work comprising the distribution of disinfectant, enquiries as to the availability of water supply, facilities for cooking food and boiling of water, drying of houses and furniture with portable hot air drying machines. All foodshops in the affected area were visited to advise on the cleaning of the shops and the condition of the food. Where necessary suitable arrangements were made for the disposal of damaged food.

In addition to the above, visits were made to various premises as shown under the following different headings:-



19.	<u>DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION</u>	<u>Number</u>
	Disinfection of Bedding (lots)	14
	Destruction of Bedding (lots)	3
	Disinfection of Premises	1
	Disinfection of Caravans	-
	Visits made.	23

(In two houses and one flat, use was made of Lindane Smoke Generators, a pure form of gamma benzene hexachloride (BHC) for destroying fleas).

(a) Wasp Nests

The service for the destruction of wasp nests was continued on the same lines as last year. Several complaints were received and as a result of investigation 22 wasp nests were destroyed.

20. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No case of bed bug infestation was recorded.

21. CAMPING SITES

There are four sites within the urban district licensed by the Council under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936 for Camping purposes and are as follows:-

1. Sandy Bay Holiday Park

Fields at Westdown Farm Littleham, bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers: 187, 190, 197, 198, 200, 201, 203, 512, 514, 515, 516, 519, 520, 521, 523, 524, 526, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535 and 536.

Area: 159.7 acres Licensed for 800 moveable dwellings, which represents a density of 5 moveable dwellings to the acre.

2. Foxholes Hill

Fields at Maer Farm and Foxholes Hill, bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers: 471, 475 and 497.

Area: 14.6 acres.

Licensed for 216 caravans, which represents a density of 15 moveable dwellings to the acre.

3. Orcombe Heights

Fields at Orcombe Heights bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers 499 and 503.

Area: 22.3 acres. Licensed for 50 tents or trailer caravans of a type approved by the Council, which represents a density of 2 moveable dwellings to the acre.

4. Higher Orcombe

Fields at Higher Orcombe bearing Ordnance Survey Numbers 500, 502, 504, 506, and 507.

Area: 24.7 acres. Licensed for 82 trailer caravans of a type approved by the Council, which represents a density of 3 moveable dwellings to the acre.





The occupier of the Foxholes Hill site was requested to fix fire extinguishers at the prescribed places on his site in order to comply with the licence conditions. Also in connection with this site it was necessary to write to the site occupier requiring a large shed adjoining a caravan to be removed from the pitch since it was being used for sleeping purposes.

In the latter part of the year a new Act to simplify the control of caravan sites was brought into force on 29th August 1960. The Act is entitled the "Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act 1960." At the same time the Minister of Housing and Local Government issued Model Standards under the provisions of Section 5 for the guidance of local authorities when prescribing conditions to be attached to licences. The Model Standards have made it necessary for more detail to be taken into account. This has required the Council's appropriate Committee to give further consideration upon this subject and a great deal of time has been required for this.

It has not been possible to complete the consideration of all these matters during the remainder of the year and by agreement with the Site Operators, as provided for in the Act, further time is being given to the matters required to be dealt with by the new Standards and to discuss them with the Site Operators before they are agreed upon and incorporated as conditions in the various licences to be issued under the new Act.

During the year 47 visits were made to the sites.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) General

The food premises in the area include the following types:-

Butchers	18
Dairies and Milk Distributors	31
Fish Shops	7
Fried Fish Shops	8
Bakehouses	12
Bread and cake shops	8
Greengrocers	16
Grocers	63
Restaurants and cafes	31
Hotels and guest houses	80
Public Houses	25
Other food premises	44
	<hr/>
	343
	<hr/>

### (b) Registered Premises

The number and type of food premises registered under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act 1955 are:-

The preparation or manufacture of preserved food	27
The manufacture of ice cream	5
The sale of ice cream	133

The number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations 1959 is 17.



(c) Unsound Food

Food condemned as unfit for human consumption consisted of:-

<u>Tinned Meats</u>	Pounds	Ozs.	Cwts.	Qtrs.	lbs.	ozs.
Corned Beef (Contents )	181	4				
Cooked Ham (decomposed)	190	13				
Pork Luncheon Meat (leaking or)	42	15				
Jellied Veal (tins blown)	54	-				
Ox Tongues (punctured )	24	-				
Pressed Tongue (or rusted )	6	-				
Chopped Pork ( )	8	-				
Stewed Steak ( )	12	-				
			4	2	15	-

Other Foods

Bacon (decomposed)	18	-				
Cake (mouldy)	41	-				
Cheese (mite infested)	8	8				
Cockles (decomposed)	112	-				
Chicken (2 tins) (blown)	6	12				
Dab Fillets (decomposed)	28	-				
Sausages (mouldy or decomposed)	204	-				
			3	2	26	4

Tins of Food (Assorted)

517 (tins punctured or blown)	568	3				
			5	-	8	3
	TOTAL		13	1	21	7

In addition the following food was condemned as a result of flood damage:-

	<u>lbs.</u>	<u>ozs</u>
4 lambs carcasses	144	
11 legs of lamb	48	
1 leg of pork	8	12
Chuck beef	30	
Shoulder beef	15	
13 chickens	39	8
36 packets of mixed fruit	27	
sultanas	28	
cheese	318	
pork pies	12	
butter	728	
lard	280	
sausages	12	
cooked meat	4	
60 dozen large eggs	-	
	15 cwts. 14 lbs. 4 ozs	

Combined total of 1 ton 8 cwts. 2 qtrs. 7 lb. 11 ozs.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying at the Council's Refuse Tip.



(d) Food Retailers

During the course of the year, 206 visits were made to butchers shops, fish shops, fried fish shops, bread and cake shops, greengrocers and grocers shops.

At one butcher's shop 2 storerooms have been redecorated and tables resurfaced. Towards the end of the year a new butcher's shop was opened on the Exeter Road Estate.

The occupier of a fish shop was requested not to leave empty fish boxes on the pavement and has now stopped this practice. At one fried fish shop a new preparation room has been constructed, whilst at another a new floor, wash-hand basin and water heater have been provided. In a third instance the walls of the preparation room have been tiled half-way up the walls and the room redecorated. Soap, nailbrush, towel and first aid materials were provided at one bread and cake shop.

In connection with the grocery trade, one unsatisfactory foodstore was discontinued after a request from the Department.

(e) Bakehouses

All twelve bakehouses in the district are operated by mechanical power and of these 9 are classed as factories since persons are employed in them. One new bakehouse was put into use during the year. In this case the Department was consulted on the requirements necessary under the Food Hygiene Regulations. The ceiling of one bakehouse required redecoration whilst the floor of a flour loft at another premises has been repaired.

20 visits were made to the Bakehouses.

(f) Catering Establishments

4 of these were completely redecorated whilst in one instance only the dining-room required redecoration. In another case the floors of 3 rooms were repaired as well as the preparation room being redecorated. At one property it was necessary for a wash-hand basin to be fitted.

In general it was found that attention was necessary to ensure the maintenance of hand-washing facilities such as soap, nailbrushes and in some cases, towels. There was also a tendency for first aid materials to run out unexpectedly at the time of inspection. However, it is considered the availability of these items has now been impressed upon the people concerned as well as once again the importance of personal hygiene in all matters. 69 visits were made to these places.

(g) Hotels and Guest Houses

As a result of routine visits to a large number of these establishments, it was only necessary for the following items to be dealt with at three premises; vegetable store redecorated, 3 wash-hand basins fitted, 2 tables and one preparation bench resurfaced.

Here, as well as in catering establishments, the keynote of personal hygiene depends upon the staff being made aware of the prime importance of personal hygiene, especially the washing of hands after using a water closet. Every opportunity is taken to stress this point.

There were 44 visits made to these premises.





(h) Public Houses

It was necessary to require the redecoration of one beer cellar and to improve the artificial lighting to the sanitary accommodation. At another premises it was found desirable to provide means of ventilating the lobby between the sanitary accommodation and the bar.

7 visits were made to these places.

(i) Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1960

These Regulations came into force on 1st October 1960 consolidating and amending the previous Food Hygiene Regulations. The principal changes were to extend the Regulations to food businesses carried on from home-going ships and moored vessels, and to alter the definition of handling of food to include the cleaning of food utensils and equipment.

Routine work under the Regulations was continued during the visits to the different food premises and the visits were concerned with the general requirements of the Regulations. Below is given a summary of the more important achievements secured under the Regulations:-

Wash-hand basins provided	10
Hot water supplies provided	6
Soap, towels and nailbrushes provided	15
First-aid materials provided	15
Sinks provided or renewed.	3
Food rooms cleansed and/or redecorated	30
Food rooms repaired and/or improved.	12
Sanitary conveniences repaired and/or improved	7
Intervening ventilated spaces provided	2
Clothing accommodation provided	3
Protective screens provided	-
Equipment renewed or improved.	7

(j) Milk Supply

There are 31 milk distributors.

The premises were found to be satisfactory and no changes were made during the present year.

31 visits were made during the year under the Milk & Dairies Regulations.

The following licences were issued during the year:-

Designation	Dealers' Licences
Pasteurised	32
Tuberculin Tested	30
Sterilised	1

13 samples of Pasteurised and Tuberculin Tested milk were obtained and sent to the Public Health Laboratory for examination. One sample of Tuberculin Tested milk was reported upon as not conforming to the standard required. The producer was accordingly notified by letter of the unsatisfactory result. This sample was taken from a vending machine. A later sample taken from the same machine was satisfactory.





(k) Ice Cream

46 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination at the Public Health Laboratory, and the results were as follows:-

GRADE I	91%
GRADE II	7%
GRADE IV	2%

Below is given a tabulated statement of the result of samples since 1953.

GRADE	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960
I	54 (83%)	24 (86%)	8 (58%)	31 (96.9%)	22 (61.1%)	33 (78.8%)	36 (88%)	42 (91%)
II	10 (15%)	4 (14%)	6 (42%)	1 (3.1%)	10 (27.8%)	5 (11.9%)	4 (10%)	3 (7%)
III	1 (2%)	-	-	-	4 (11.1%)	2 (4.7%)	1 (2%)	-
IV	-	-	-	-	-	2 (4.7%)	-	1 (2%)

On the whole the results are very satisfactory, but it is disappointing to record that towards the end of the Summer a sample of ice cream was found to be Grade IV. The ice cream was from a bulk supply in a can kept in an ice cream conservator. This illustrates again how important it is for all concerned to take all precautions during the sale of loose ice cream to avoid external contamination from all sources as well as ensuring that the utensils for serving ice cream are kept clean and treated with suitable sterilising solution at all times.

Good relations have again been maintained in all cases, and copies of the Laboratory Reports as in previous years have been supplied to the people concerned.

Although there are 5 premises registered for manufacture, at only one of these premises was ice cream made. Whilst 133 premises are registered for the sale of ice cream, at only 98 of these premises was ice cream sold.

The number of visits made to premises where ice cream was manufactured or sold was 129.

(l) Shellfish

Visits were made at approximately monthly intervals to the Shellfish Factory at the Docks occupied by Messrs. Exe Shellfish Limited. Every consideration is given to maintaining a high standard of hygiene at the Factory, which is reflected in the results obtained from the samples.

11 samples of cockle and mussels were taken at the Factory during the inspections and sent to the Public Health laboratory at Exeter for bacteriological examination. All the samples were reported as "Satisfactory."



23. PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT 1949General

There was again this year a substantial increase in the number of complaints as compared with last year, since there were 81 complaints instead of 48 received in the previous year. 5 complaints concerned mice.

Rat proofing was requested at 3 properties and this was carried out by the owners by the renewal of an air grating, making good the holes around pipes, and securing and making good broken and open windows in a disused basement.

In the early part of the year, the part-time Rodent Operator resigned and we were fortunate to obtain the services of another person who commenced duties from the 1st April 1960.

I am pleased to record that the Council at their February Meeting agreed to accept responsibility for treating free of charge private properties for the extermination of rats and mice. Commercial properties, of course, are still subject to the cost of treatment if our services are used.

This policy has no doubt contributed partly to the increase in the number of complaints received, but on the other hand, it has resulted in the provision of a properly organised method of control instead of the previous rather haphazard system. Now all complaints are dealt with by one Operator and treatment continued until a satisfactory result is achieved.

The Rodent Operator has carried out 85 treatments.

Rodent Control - Sewers

As a result of the Annual West Baiting of sewers in early September, there were found to be slight infestations in two unrelated sections of the sewer system. Treatment using a quick acting poison was carried out in November after the flooding.

Council Property

The following properties of the Council were treated in the course of the year:-

Withycombe Brook (three sections)  
Pheasant Park.  
Madeira Walk  
Nutbrook Estate Grounds  
Council depot  
Lower Filters - Saltorton Road.  
Withycombe Refuse Tip.  
Boldbrook Brook.  
Hamilton Lane.

201 visits were made regarding Rodent Control.

24. SHOPS ACT 1950

This Council is the Sanitary authority under the provisions of the Shops Act 1950, and as such is responsible only for enforcing the requirements of Section 38 relating to ventilation and heating of shops and sanitary conveniences. Whilst visiting shops on routine inspections the opportunity of checking the above requirements was taken. Following this, in two cases the space heating of shops was improved, and in one instance, where none existed before, a new water closet was provided.



25. FACTORIES ACTS 1937 to 1959. 1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provision as to health.

Premises	Number of			
	on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	11	11	1	-
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	88	93	7	-
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	10	10	-
TOTAL	109	114	18	-

2. CASES in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness	1	1	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	7	6	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	10	-	1	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act not including offences relating to outwork	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	19	18	-	2	-

During the year attention was directed to building sites which were found frequently to be without sanitary accommodation or provided with only a urinal. Chemical closets have been asked for in all cases where temporary accommodation is needed in order to provide suitable accommodation within the meaning of the Factories Act and to prevent nuisances arising under the Public Health Act 1936.





3. OUTWORK (Sections 110 and 111)

Below is given a table of the number of outworkers employed by factories in the district:-

PART VIII OF THE ACT  
Outwork.

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111	
	No. of outworkers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served Prosecutions
Mending and making of apparel etc. Cleaning and washing	22				
Household linen					
Lace, lace curtains and nets					
Curtains and furniture hangings					
Furniture and Upholstery					
Electro-plate					
File making					
Brass and brass articles	84				
Fur pulling					
Iron and steel anchors and grapnels					
Cart gear					
Locks, latches and keys					
Umbrellas, etc.					
Artificial flowers					
Nets, other than wire nets					
Rents					
Sacks					
Racquet and tennis balls					



## PART VIII OF THE ACT (Contd.)

## Outwork

Nature of Work	Section 110			Section 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of unholysome premises.	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Paper bags						
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper						
Brush making						
Pea picking						
Feather sorting						
Carding, etc., of buttons etc.						
stuffed toys						
Basket making						
Chocolates and sweetmeats						
Cosques, Christmas stockings, etc.,						
Textile weaving						
Lampshades						
TOTAL	100	-	-	-	-	-

Where work is given out from a factory and done in a private dwelling-house, it is termed "homework" and the person who does the work is an "outworker". This control applies to certain classes of work as specified by regulations of the Secretary of State. The occupier of the factory concerned with outworkers is required to keep a list of all outworkers and send a copy of the list to the local authority during the months of February and August in each year.

26.

HOUSING

Apart from the 9 Statutory Notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 referred to earlier, the majority of housing work this year has been accomplished by informal action which has resulted in 28 houses being repaired.

During the year one Closing Order was revoked by the Council after the necessary works had been carried out to render the house fit for human habitation. In addition a completely new roof, bathroom and hot water supply were provided.



27.

The following report has been kindly supplied by the Housing Officer, Mr E.R. Ashton.

1. Housing Applications received during 1960 - 197.
2. Summary of the list of applicants waiting rehousing as at 30th April, 1961.

Considered to be in need of rehousing and accommodation required.			<u>Total</u>	Considered to be <u>adequately housed</u>	Grand <u>Total</u>
<u>3 bedrooms</u>	<u>2 bedrooms</u>	<u>1 bedroom</u>			
114	43	102	<u>259</u>	147	<u>406</u>

Although 55 families were housed during the year ending 30th April, 1961, the number "considered to be in need of rehousing" increased by 87.

As regards the future, the remaining 82 dwellings on the Burnside Estate (out of total of 110) are due to be completed in 1962. This should enable the Waiting List to be kept at its present total until the end of that year or even reduce it in number.

3. Number of exchanges effected with tenants of other local authorities 6
4. Number of transfers and exchanges effected locally. 19
5. Pre-War Housing Improvement Scheme.

A plan to modernise 137 houses of pre-war construction was approved by the Council during 1960. Work commenced towards the end of the year, two houses being completed by November, 1960.

At present three houses at a time are being re-constructed.



APPENDIX "A"Exmouth Flooding - 1960

On the afternoon of September 30th after days of heavy rainfall the Withycombe brook overflowed its banks and inundated that area of the town known as the Colony, when approximately 800 houses and shops were involved.

On my return to the town at approximately 4.30 p.m. it appeared that the immediate problem was one of investigating the plight of the unfortunate occupants of the flooded areas. The depth of water however precluded the use of vehicles other than boats, or the Royal Marine 3 ton transport carriers, so with the aid of the Superintendent of the local police headquarters, two such motor vehicles were obtained, together with some 30 Royal Marine personnel. The Welfare Officer in one of these vehicles and myself in another, we toured the area. In order to avoid unnecessary wash and to prevent stalling of the transports' engines, progress was necessarily slow, it taking over 1 hour to complete each tour. Touring of the area was continued throughout the hours of darkness.

The objects of touring the area were:

1. To give moral support to the inhabitants of the area who in the main had had to take refuge in the upstairs rooms and were virtually prisoners there.
2. To especially enquire at the houses of "old people" to make sure that they were safe and being cared for.
3. To enquire whether there was any special immediate help required.
4. To request inhabitants to boil all water before using it for drinking, teeth cleaning etc.

In the days that followed and as the water receded, cleaning and drying of the houses presented the biggest problem. Bearing in mind that the flood waters were heavily laden with silt and light humus and that the water lay in the area for some 24 - 48 hours, the resulting deposit was, in most areas of some 2" in depth.

However, with the aid of students from the Rolle College Exmouth and members of the I.F.C. Royal Marines, the mud was cleared from the houses and off the streets, the drains cleaned and furniture which had been spoilt was dumped on the pavements and removed by lorry to the Council's Refuse Tip at Withycombe.

At the stage when cleaning of houses had become practicable, two lorries toured the area issuing concentrated disinfectant to the householders, later "posts" were set up and suitably manned for the issue of disinfectant.

The next big problem was one of drying-out the houses and to aid this, some 20 Comet Butane gas hot-air dryers were obtained and put into use. Later, 4 Trojan dryers which were much larger and more efficient than the Comets were brought into use. This drying-out process was of necessity a lengthy one, bearing in mind that at least 2 hours was required for each house. Even so the effect of these machines was confined to the drying of the surface of walls and floors and it will be many months before the walls will be sufficiently dry to allow of satisfactory re-decoration.





The drying of carpets also presented a difficult problem and was solved only when the offer on the part of the South Western Gas Board to use the gas works at Exeter was taken up. Eventually these works were accepting up to 300 carpets each day. But the collection, labelling and final delivering to the owners homes constituted a big task.

Both the supervision of the house drying equipment and the carpet drying was placed in the hands of the Public Health Dept.

The inspection of all food shops was an important necessity in order to advise the shopkeepers on what food to destroy and how to clean and disinfect the premises.

So much for the first episode at Exmouth; but as is well known, on the following Thursday as daylight faded more torrential rains fell on the catchment area and by 6.0 p.m. the Withycombe brook had overflowed its banks and become a torrent 50 yards wide demolishing bridge walls, garden walls, a garage and a telephone kiosk.

The plight of the inhabitants of the colony was worse than a week previously for the flood water was at least a foot deeper. This time many homes in the Withycombe Village which had escaped on the first occasion were flooded and it was estimated that in all, some 1,000 houses and shops in the town suffered.

The action required by the Public Health Department was a repetition of that of the previous week, that is, the touring of the district, the issue of notices advising people to boil the water before drinking; the cleaning up and the drying out.

Emergency feeding was necessary and was efficiently executed by the members of the M.V.S. working at the Church School, The Beacon Exmouth

As soon as it was practicable, a house-to-house enquiry was instituted to make sure that there were no sanitary defects, broken or blocked drains etc., and where such defects were found, immediate action was taken by the Surveyors Department to put them right.

In view of the extent of the physical damage to roads and buildings on the second occasion, and the possibility of damage to sewers and water mains, it was considered advisable to isolate that section of the towns water mains and inject chlorine at a much greater strength than normal. This was done but some difficulty was experienced in obtaining a servicable piece of equipment from the Civil Defence Headquarters.

The above account refers to Exmouth U.D.C. However, the Rural District of St. Thomas also suffered considerably, but the story was much the same except that the flood water dispersed within hours and not days. In Lympstone village sewage was in much evidence in the flooded area.

Again the issue of disinfectant, the notices to boil all drinking water, discard all contaminated food and the drying of houses and carpets followed a similar pattern to that used at Exmouth and fell fair and squarely on the Public Health Dept.

If one may summarise the action required of the Medical Officer of Health and his Department, I should say that:



1. He, the Medical Officer of Health had to be prepared to advise on numerous matters many outside the normal scope of Medical Officer of Health duties.
2. The department had to organise the supply of disinfectant, the delivery of various notices to the inhabitants
3. The drying-out of the houses.
4. The collection, labelling and re-distribution of carpets.
5. The visits to all the affected houses on at least two occasions (i.e. in Exmouth, some 2,000 visits).
6. The temporary supply of drinking water to houses where the occupants either could not get at their taps or else had no facilities for boiling the water.
7. The supervision of the food shops affected in the flooded areas.

It will be appreciated that there being no immediate loss of life or in fact injury of person, no call-out of first aid teams, doctors, nurses etc., was required and the action required was simply that of maintaining the morale of the populace as high as possible; the prevention of water-borne disease and assisting with the rehabilitation of the area as far as was possible.

The effect of the disaster due to flooding was to cause extreme distress and inconvenience, as well as loss of property, but did not involve injury or loss of life, it was not necessary to involve the County Council's Disaster Plan.

However, there is no doubt that the magnitude of the flood was such as to be classified in the minds of the local populace as a disaster and the unit (Exmouth) disaster plan was in fact put into operation in all respects other than first aid medical services (which were not needed).

The question that still remains to be answered is what constitutes a "disaster." In my view the mere absence of injured, when the need for rescue and welfare, fire fighting and other services are greatly needed, should not preclude an incident from being classed as a disaster. But who takes control in the first instance?

According to Exmouth U.C.D. Unit Disaster Plan - which incidentally relies on Civil Defence Volunteer Services, "the Clerk of the (District) Council at the request of the Police and other appropriate authorities will put the plan into operation."

On the other hand, according to the Devon County Council Disaster Plan (at least in respect of medical arrangements) the Chief Constable or his local officer should be in control. It is obvious that one will have to agree which of these two officers should assume the initial command of the situation.

Personally I do feel that there may be a good case for initial local control as was practiced at Exmouth during the flooding, but that when the situation is found to be beyond the resources of the local authority, then the full assistance as visualised in the Devon County Council Disaster plan should be put into full and immediate operation. In cases where there are numerous casualties, I agree entirely with the scheme set out in the Devon County Council disaster plan (medical arrangements) except that in my opinion, the Medical Officer of Health of the district should be notified at the beginning of Phase I and not left in ignorance of the situation until the Divisional Medical Officer has completed his notification of every other body.





